ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

April 9, 1968

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Robert F. Kennedy, during the period he was Attorney General, not only approved recommendations for electronic surveillances but he initially requested such coverage. These are the facts:

Former Assistant Director C. A. Evans by memorandum dated July 16, 1963, to former Assistant to the Director A. H. Belmont reported that he, Evans, contacted Kennedy at his request on that date. Kennedy pointed out that in view of possibly communist influence in racial matters, he desired telephone coverage of King and Clarence Benjamin Jones, a New York attorney who had close association with King. Evans pointed out to Kennedy that King was in constant travel status and it was, therefore, doubtful that a telephone surveillance at his office or home would be productive. Also Evans raised a question as to the repercussions if it should ever become known that such a surveillance had been put on King. Kennedy replied that this did not concern him in the least.

By memorandum dated July 25, 1963, from Evans to Belmont, Evans reported that Kennedy stated he was of the opinion that his request for telephone surveillance on King had been ill-advised and that he was withdrawing his request.

Memorandum of October 7, 1963, to the Attorney General from the Director requested a telephone surveillance on King at his residence 563 Johnson Avenue, Northeast, Atlanta, Georgia. This was approved under the written signature of Kennedy dated October 10, 1963. A telephone surveillance was installed on November 8, 1963, and discontinued on April 30, 1965.

Memorandum dated October 18, 1963, to the Attorney General requested a telephone surveillance on King at his office, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, 330 Auburn Avenue, Northeast, Atlanta, Georgia. This was approved on the written signature of Kennedy dated October 21, 1963. Telephone surveillance was installed on October 21, 1963, and discontinued on June 21, 1966.

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While Kennedy did personally sign two requests for telephone surveillances on King, he did not sign any microphone surveillance requests. The microphone surveillances were put

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on by Bureau officials (The Director, Belmont, Sullivan, & Baumgardner) acting under general authority relating to the Attorney General. During 1964 microphone surveillance coverage was placed on King during his travels to Washington, D. C.; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Honolulu, Hawaii; Los Angeles, California; Detroit, Michigan; San Francisco, California; and Savannah, Georgia.

By memorandum dated March 4, 1964, from F. J. Baumgardner to Mr. W. C. Sullivan recommended and approved that Evans personally deliver to the Attorney General a copy of a "Top Secret" [redacted] memorandum [redacted] It also contained King's vilification of the late President and his wife. The memorandum was delivered by Evans on March 10, 1964.

Memorandum from Evans to Belmont of September 11, 1964, reported that Kennedy before leaving office had instructed that the "Top Secret" memorandum submitted to him by the FBI be returned to the Bureau since he did not feel this material should go to the general Departmental files. Evans recommended that the copy of the material be destroyed. The Director instructed that it was not to be destroyed but kept in file with Evans' memorandum. The contents of the "Top Secret" memorandum clearly indicate that the information came from a microphone surveillance.

W.C.S.